



Weir Farm Trust

Visiting Artists Program 2005 - 2006

Program Description

The Weir Farm Trust invites professional visual artists to apply to the Visiting Artists Program at Weir Farm National Historic Site. The 2005 program will begin in the summer and continue for one year. Housing and studio space are not provided for this program - rather artists use Weir Farm as an “open air” studio, working on-site as often as necessary to inform a body of work. Benefits of the program include:

- ♦ **A group exhibition of work completed during the program.**
- ♦ **An exhibition publication and opening reception.**
- ♦ **The opportunity to present a public lecture, individually or on a panel, and participate in the Farm's cultural programs.**
- ♦ **A \$500 honorarium to help cover travel expenses or supplies.**

The purpose of the Visiting Artists program, now entering its fourteenth year, is to give selected artists the opportunity to create a cohesive body of work based on each artist's personal interpretation of Weir Farm. While the focus is on the creation of work, Visiting Artists are also given access to the Farm's outstanding archives for research on the historical, cultural and physical features of Weir Farm.

Selection

The Visiting Artists Program represents diverse artistic points of view, from traditional to experimental. Applicants may apply in any visual art medium. The selection of artists is based on the quality of each artist's work and his or her interest in working at Weir Farm. In addition to slides of work, each applicant is required to submit a statement that explains why he or she would like to work at the Farm and what is hoped to be gained from the experience. A rotating panel of professional artists, museum curators, and art specialists reviews the work and makes recommendations to the Trust's Board of Trustees. Artists who have previously participated in the program may not re-apply.

Application

Applicants must submit the following (please read carefully):

- ☐ **\$15 application fee payable to the Weir Farm Trust.**
- ☐ **Six slides of recent work in a clear plastic slide page - numbered 1-6 and labeled with your name, title of work, date, medium and dimensions.**
- ☐ **List of slides typed on a single sheet: Corresponding to numbers of slides 1-6 with your name, title of each work, date of completion, medium, and dimensions.**
- ☐ **2 copies of current resume with education, exhibitions, collections, reviews, publications, awards, etc. (3 pages maximum, please).**
- ☐ **2 copies of statement explaining interest in working at Weir Farm and intended goals of the experience (no longer than one page).**
- ☐ **Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of materials.**

PLEASE NOTE: Do not use paperclips or staples to hold packets together, and please do not organize materials in binders, folders or notebooks. Send all materials in a standard 9 x 12 inch envelope. Thank you.

Deadline

Postmarked deadline is **April 30, 2005**. Mail applications to: Weir Farm Trust, 735 Nod Hill Road, Wilton, CT 06897. Questions? Call (203)761-9945 or email allenwft@optonline.net.

Weir Farm History

Located in southwestern Connecticut, Weir Farm was the former home and workplace of the celebrated American painter J. Alden Weir (1852-1919). America's foremost painters including John Twachtman, Childe Hassam and Albert Pinkham Ryder, to name a few, were among Weir's wide circle of friends who often joined him to paint and gain inspiration from this quintessential New England landscape. The Farm has been continuously used by artists since 1882. Still preserved are the home, studios and landscape integral to Weir's artistic vision. What remains today is the 60-acre historic core of the Farm located on the border of Ridgefield and Wilton, Connecticut. Established by the United States Congress in October 1990, Weir Farm National Historic Site became Connecticut's first National Park Site and the only one in the country devoted to American painting.

Weir Farm Trust

The Weir Farm Trust, a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1989, works in partnership with the National Park Service at Weir Farm National Historic Site. The Trust's mission is to promote public awareness of the Farm's history and artistic tradition, facilitate its use by contemporary artists, provide educational opportunities, and preserve the Farm's unique environment.

The Visiting Artists Program is made possible in part with support from the National Park Service; Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism; JP Morgan Chase Bank; Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation; and the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation.